

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)  
TYPE: Experimental Product  
DATE: July 27, 2003***

---

PUERTO RICO & U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS RAINFALL OUTLOOK

## **Part 1 - Mission Connection**

**1. Product/Service Description:**

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) issues a series of three-month quantitative precipitation outlooks for selected cities in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**2. Purpose/Intended Use:**

Since these outlooks pertain to the total precipitation for the entire valid period and not to the variability within it, they will not help people planning events for specific dates or sub-periods. The outlooks will be of most use for economic and business planning, particularly when used with 30 year base period means.

**3. Audience:**

The outlooks provide information to decision makers in weather and climate sensitive activities sensitive to inter seasonal, seasonal and inter-annual climate variation (e.g. weather risk management, energy/utilities, agriculture, hydrology, etc.).

**4. Presentation Format:**

CPC presents this product graph (ordinate and abscissa) on the CPC web site.

**5. Feedback Method:**

Go to <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/NWS-feedback-form.html>. Experimental feedback period through October 5, 2003.

## **Part 2 - Technical**

**1. Format and Science Basis:**

CPC will issue a separate outlook graph for each city. The bars on each the graph indicate the outlook values (as standardized precipitation anomalies) and the lines indicate the associated skills (as correlation coefficients). CPC will use the same ordinate scale for outlooks and skills. The target season is indicated on the abscissa according to the target season legend near the top of page. CPC will issue outlooks for the following cities on

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/PRUVdir/PAC1.html>.

- SAN JUAN (Puerto Rico)
- GRANARD (ST. CROIX, US Virgin Islands)
- WINTBERG (ST. THOMAS, US Virgin Islands)
- CRUZ BAR (ST. JOHN US Virgin Islands)

CPC uses the 30-year base period mean total precipitation to calculate the predicted anomalies. CPC updates base period means once per decade.

**2. Availability:**

These are scheduled products. CPC issues these outlooks once a month on the third Thursday of the month around 3:00 p.m. Eastern local time. CPC does not issue updates or amendments. They will issue corrections as needed.

They are also issued on the CPC web site at the URL listed in section 1.

**3. Additional Information:**

- Valid Time: CPC will issue thirteen three-month outlooks simultaneously with lead times from 0.5 months to 12.5 months. For example, in mid-January, CPC will issue three-month outlooks for February through April, March through May, April through June, and so on to February through April of the next year.
- Product Expiration Time: All three-month outlooks expire when the next set of three-month outlooks are issued (i.e. the third Thursday of the following month).
- Creation Software: CPC uses the General Meteorological Package (GEMPAK) software as an input into National Center Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (NAWIPS).